

My name is Kim Downer. I am the Manager of Emergency Services at Lawrence General Hospital.

In this role I lead a team of some 130 caregivers delivering care to 70,000 patients per year. I am concerned about a group like Cerberus - a New York venture capital firm - buying a hospital in our region.

I am a Methuen resident and have worked in healthcare in Lawrence for 23 years. We value, as do our patients, the strong connection we have to the community and its wellness. I often see patients and families that remember encounters with me as a care giver from years ago. They tell me how much they valued the care and compassion they received and my commitment to the community. I have taken care of some members of this community hundreds of times through my career. Our community based Board of Directors and Trustees are vested in the issues and challenges our region face on a day to day basis. I am also gravely concerned about the future of psychiatric care if a profit margin is the bottom line; this area of service is certainly not a money maker from my experience, but is a huge need in our community.

I work with a dedicated team of nurses, doctors and ancillary help that live, work and care about this area tremendously.

I believe that this acquisition may change health care delivery in our community. Our region relies on two hospital providers, and many caring physicians and caregivers.

Our region needs every health care access point we have and more. We need every inpatient bed, outpatient clinic, nurse and caregiver. I urge the Attorney General and our leaders to put conditions in place on this transfer that preserve access and ensure that the programs like those that I have mentioned are not threatened.

Thank you so much for listening.